

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate, ~~which comprises comprising:~~

reacting an aqueous alkali solution of a dihydric phenol with phosgene in the presence of an organic solvent to ~~produce~~ obtain a polycarbonate oligomer; and

~~subsequently~~ polycondensing the polycarbonate oligomer; and

wherein:

reacting the dihydric phenol with phosgene yields an emulsion solution of a polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent; ~~obtained in the polycarbonate oligomer production step~~

the emulsion solution is subjected to separation in ~~introduced into~~ a coalescer to separate the emulsion solution into a polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase and an aqueous phase; and

polycondensing the polycarbonate oligomer comprises polycondensing polycarbonate oligomer in the polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase ~~is subjected to polycondensation.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in of claim 1, wherein:

the polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase ~~separated~~ obtained by separation of the emulsion solution in the coalescer ~~is introduced into~~ is subjected to separation in a tank for still standing separation; and

polycondensing the polycarbonate oligomer comprises polycondensing polycarbonate oligomer in a polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase separated-obtained by separation in the tank for still standing separation-is subjected to polycondensation.

Claim 3 (New): The process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in claim 1, wherein the coalescer comprises mounted elements that enhance coalescence of the polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase.

Claim 4 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the elements comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, carbon fibers, metal fibers, synthetic resin fibers, organic fibers and porous materials.

Claim 5 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the elements comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of flat-shaped elements, cylindrical-shaped elements and pleat-shaped elements.

Claim 6 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the coalescer operates at a pressure difference of from 0.001 to 1.0 MPa.

Claim 7 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the coalescer operates to accelerate uniting of liquid particles of the disperse phase of the emulsion solution.

Claim 8 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein separation of the polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase and the aqueous phase of the emulsion solution takes place in a housing of the coalescer.

Claim 9 (New): The process of claim 8, wherein an interface between the polycarbonate oligomer-containing organic solvent phase and the aqueous phase of the emulsion solution is not present in the housing of the coalescer during separation.